

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1710

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By Mr. Jones of North Reading, petition of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to the awarding of high school diplomas for certain veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### PETITION OF:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	Susan Williams Gifford
Mary S. Rogeness	Robert S. Hargraves
George N. Peterson, Jr.	Daniel K. Webster
John A. Lepper	Karyn E. Polito
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	Paul J.P. Loscocco
Elizabeth A. Poirier	Shirley Gomes
Jeffrey Davis Perry	Michael J. Coppola
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	Todd M. Smola
Susan W. Pope	Richard J. Ross

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR AND THE VIETNAM WAR.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:—  
4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to  
5 the contrary, school committees may award diplomas to any  
6 World War II veteran, Korean War veteran or Vietnam War vet-  
7 eran as defined in clause 43 of section 7 of chapter 4, who resides  
8 in a municipality whose residents currently attend the high school  
9 maintained by said school committee, who withdrew from sec-  
10 ondary school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed

11 forces of the United States, who did not receive a high school  
12 diploma as a consequence of such service, and who was honorably  
13 discharged from the armed services. The department of education  
14 and the department of veterans' services shall jointly promulgate  
15 guidelines for the identification of eligible veterans by school dis-  
16 tricts and for the awarding of such diplomas by school commit-  
17 tees.

1 SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not invalidate any  
2 diploma awarded by a school committee prior to the passage of  
3 this act to individuals who meet the criteria set forth to receive  
4 diplomas in section 1 of this act.